

21737/P  
ENIGMATICAL COURT:

OR, A

K E Y

TO THE

*High-German Doctor.*

BEING

The CHARACTERS of those Men whose  
Actions are a Mystery.

To which is prefix'd,

A LIST of several Eminent  
Persons.

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Part I.

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-----*Mutato nomine*-----

*Fabula narratur*-----

Hor.

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A  
LIST, &c.

- I. **T**HE Right Honourable *Robert*  
Earl of *Oxford* and *Motimer*.
- II. The Right Honourable *Henry* Lord  
*Viscount Bolingbroke*.
- III. His Grace *John* Duke of *Buckingham*.
- IV. The Right Honourable *Simon* Lord  
*Harcourt*.
- V. The Reverend Dr. *Swift*.
- VI. The Hon. *Arthur Moore*, Esq;
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# Characters, &c.

**M**R. *Budgell* having lately obliged the Publick with the Translation of the Characters of *Theophrastus*, in which the Vices of the Men I am about to describe in some Measure appear; it cannot be thought improper to let the Town see the Men themselves. I have therefore collected from the Chief of the Clan both his own, and the others Characters who are employ'd under him. As for his own, take it from the Account he gives of himself.

I. Dr. *HERMODACTYL*.

*Gentlemen and Ladies,*

**T**HE Eminence of my former Practice, and long Familiarity with the most difficult Cases which can possibly happen, have, I presume, so well establish'd my Character, (especially the Wonderful Cures I have perform'd the Four Years past) that I need not Address you in a suppliant way to become my Patients.

Men of narrow Spirits and cool Hearts set forth with too Humble Thoughts of themselves, continue wary in their Progress, and Ingratiate themselves with

with Mankind to maintain their Character : But to Men of Fire, warm Imagination and uncontested Skill, all this Diffidence is pernicious ; therefore your Old Friend, Dr. *Hermodactyl*, has not scrupled to appear on the Stage of *Great-Britain*, and more particularly in this Famous Metropolis. The stinging Reproaches I underwent from the Populace, about Seven Years ago, for a small Error in Practice, might I confess, have discourag'd a less Sanguine Man than my self, and tempted him to Renounce all Compassion toward such Virulent Natures ; but my strong Propension to the Good of the Publick lifts me above those mean Considerations, and stifles all the Resentments which are apt to rise in the Breasts of Great Genius's. Ye *Britons* are the most fickle People of the Universe, and therefore no Practitioner ought to be discourag'd at any Errors he commits in his Art, it being your Custom to run down the most Deserving with Vehemence, and restore them to Favour in a Fit of Passion. When I seriously reflect upon what slender Grounds so many popular Clamours were rais'd against me, a few years since, for Hindering (as it was said) the Operation of a certain Purge upon a vigorous old *French-Man*, by mixing Astringent Medicines with the Dose. I pity the Ignorance of Mankind in general, and appeal to the Judicious, Whether it was not possible for my Servant, who always attended in the Laboratory, to dispence those Ingredients without my Privity, or involving his Master in the Scandal, especially since he took the Miscarriage upon himself to the last, and I appear'd intrepid upon the Charge. I know it has been a prevailing Objection amongst some



Some People, That I was not bred a Regular Physician, nor ever look'd upon as a Man of Penetration : That I have always busied my self in musty old Records, foreign to my Profession, and consequently not capable of forming a right Judgment of Constitutions : Besides, that I was a meer Quack, and after my Disgrace little better than a Bankrupt. But I could easily reply to these Calumnies, and let the Detractors know, that our Art, at the best, is but Conjectural ; and tho' the Methodical Systems have obtain'd in the World to give a Crude Disputations in the Schools, and Mechanical Solutions ; yet the *Emperical* Practice is the most Antient, and greatest Cures have been effected that Way, of which I am a Living Witness, who, without concerning my self about the Signature of Plants, or considering Diseases, either as *Idiopatick* or *Symptomatical*, have, by applying Medicines after the Dictates of my own Fancy, (except that I have consulted my Tumbler *Harry* now and then, in the Fatigue of my Practice) puzzled all the Physicians of the present Age, made them begin to despise all former *Methodists*, and swear, in private, that I am the Luckiest, of an illiterate Fellow, that ever trod a Stage : Nay, acknowledge that there is not that great Necessity of making such Nice Enquiries into the Constitution of People, but that a Doctor appear Bold and Daring, and who can rail fluently at all other Physicians, as Quacks and Pretenders, who have been concern'd in the Case before he was call'd in, the Patient may do well, and a Constitution will help it self. As to that ill-bred Cavil at my former Poverty, I could let the Slanderers know, that I impair'd my Fortune by  
some

some Religious Acts: and, by too much Credulity, ran out a very fine Estate in Endowing a *Meeting House* for the Edification of the Saints; but it's my comfort, at the present, that I am at a *Par* with Brother Rat ---ff, and could purchase the rest of the Faculty out of one Article of my Honest Gains, viz. *The Cure of an Epidemical consuming Gleet*, which had weaken'd a great part of the Nation. I boasting was my Talent, I could surprize the World with a Present I received from a generous Foreigner for curing him of a *Cachexy*. His Body was emaciated to the last Degree; his Pulse low, his Blood exhausted, and the Disease preying upon his Vitals. He had made use of a very eminent Doctor for Nine Years; he still kept bleeding him, a Method no Man would have prescrib'd but with an Intent to destroy him, and for which no plausible Reason could be assign'd; but that the Gentleman had been formerly esteem'd *Plethorick*, and full of Blood. After many Struggles for this Patient, and some Disappointments, I was call'd in at last: In three Months time I aver it, the Old Gentleman recover'd to Admirable Health, and all his Neighbours were astonish'd; for which miraculous Cure he gave my Man *Harry*, ever and above my Gratitude, a very fine Jewel, as an Acknowledgment of the Service I had done him. It would be endless to run over the Vulgar Cure I have perform'd in a few Years: I claim your Attention to nothing but what is Stupendous in its Kind. I cur'd a great Officer in the Army, about two Years since, of a large Swelling in his Head, by a very particular Method: There was a great Consultation on the Case; most Physicians were of Opinion, T



the Humour would abate without any Application, that there was no manner of danger to his Constitution, it being *Cutaneous*. I gain'd two or three *Censors* of the Colledge of my Side, who swore the matter was lodg'd on the *Pericranium* : Upon this I took Courage, and declar'd my opinion was for opening his Head; but that being over-rul'd, as too desperate an Experiment, I forbid him the use of Superfluities, remov'd him from the Lodgings he was in, judging the Air too keen; and after I had reduc'd him to a low Diet, sent him to the *Spaw* for his Recovery; for all which, tho' I receiv'd no personal Acknowledgment at his Hands, yet there was a *Noble Present* sent me by a Benefactor who knew the value of the Cure. It may be objected by some People, who vainly emulate my successful *Practice*, that having acquir'd a handsome Competency, it favours strongly of Avarice to covet any more, and that this publick Notice carries an Air of *Quackery*. To this I answer, That I am no ways influenc'd by selfish Desires, but only expect prime Cost for my Medicines, having married my eldest Son *Cochineal* to a great Heiress, and my Daughter to a Gentleman of *Equivalent* Substance; and this publick Notice is so far from a *Quack Bill*, that nothing but strain'd Malice can give it any other Denomination than a *Generous Advertisement to the Distressed*. It is not my Design to appear on the publick Stage, but upon some extraordinary *Call*, when some difficult Amputation is to be perform'd, or large Excrescencies to be sever'd from the Vital Part of the Body. And as my Design in View is very extensive, and Capacity great, so I shall not confine my self entire-

ly to the *Physical Part* ; but as opportunity offers, I shall at my own Dwelling-House, calculate Nativities ; tell Fortunes ; point out the lucky and unlucky Days of a Man's Life ; give shrewd Conjectures who is likely to die an Untimely Death, who a Natural ; read the Scul in the Physiognomy ; tell the Critical Minute for some People's coming over Seas, others for going over, discover conceal'd Thefts, and read Dissertations Monthly on the dismal Effects of *Ratiffa*, with great Variety of other Cases which may fall in my Way.

N. B. *I live at a great House, with two Lamps in Front, near the Star and Garter-Tavern : The Fore-Door for Persons of Reputation ; the Back-Door for People under Suspicious Habits of Body about Twilight.*

## II. H A R R Y G A M B O L

**I**S nearest in Use and Interest to the Doctor in the Management of the *Stage*, whom he thus facetiously describes :

*Harry Gambol* is the smartest Fellow which belongs to my Stage : He was the prettiest Tumbler that ever rowl'd over a Carpet ; and for a *Rope*, the Young Dog had always a *Genius*, I believe he will never leave the smell of it ; His Sister *Nanny*, a *Sadlens-Wells*, has been distanc'd a *Leap* and a *Cap* per. I repent the Time that ever I put a *Launce* into his Hand, and forc'd him out of his proper Way, he having taken upon him a more Arrogant Air alate : He had the Assurance to affirm the other



Day (upon a Clamour that was rais'd by some of the *Censors* of the College) about a Case in which we were jointly concern'd, that he had not been consulted, and that it was *Mala Praxis* ; I ask'd him in a merry *Vein*, *How he came by that wonderful Skill* ? He answer'd me roundly, *As you came by yours*, Dignissime Doctor. However, I like him much for his Solutions of any difficult Case before him, and his bold Amputations ; tho' I must confess I am for Leaving on even a Stump, if it can be of any Manner of Use to the Body ; but these different Methods are serviceable. I confine him chiefly to Surgery, but have entrusted two Specificks with him, which he has made use of with wonderful Success in some *Chronical Cases*. To Persons of Figure he always gives the *Aurum Potabile pro re natâ*. To those of Lower Consideration, a Decoction of *Agrigentina*, *Anglicè Silver-Weed*, proves as effectual ; and if he does not expel the Malignity, at least he make a *Palliative Cure* for the present, and makes them easy. He is very captious if I do not communicate all my *Nostrum's* to him ; but then I have a certain Method of taking him into the *Elaboratory*, and putting some Ingredients into the *Crucible*, and averring, that's the Experiment he long'd for, and he grows tractable. He is a lusty young Rogue, pamper'd with four Bottles a Night and clean Diet, which makes him a little prone to *Carnality*. This, to my Grief, I see every Day demonstrated by the Young Wenches Handing up *Billet-Deux* in their Gloves and Handkerchiefs, under Colour of buying Packets. The Arch Knave costs me a vast Sum every Year for his



Frolicks. He rambles sometimes in his *Fool's-Coat*, by Way of Disguise, and falls in *Pell-Mell* with the Country-Waggons, at the *Crown* near *St. Giles's Pound*; where he makes a terrible Slaughter amongst the Country Nymphs, for which I am forc'd to make ample Satisfaction. In his Airs, he threatens to print my *Nostrum's* upon me, but having alter'd the Ingredients so often since he grew malepert, I defy his Malice. To be plain, the young Rogue having a good *firm Tread*, and a *tolerable Manner*, he diverts an old Lady in my Family, after the Fatigue of the Day, with the stale Jests he has broke to the Mob, who laughs to such an Excess, that if she was any ways *Dropsical*, I should fear a Breach in the *Abdomen*.

### III. R U B.

**N**Ext this celebrated Tumbler, as greatest in Appearance on the Stage, is *Rub*; of whom thus says the Doctor.

*Rub* is a Person whom I am oblig'd to set pretty high in my List, not for the great Regard I pay to his Merit, but that he claims a Precedence of others on the Score of his Seniority and long Experience, and being cover'd with Years draws in Old Matrons and Grey-Beards now and then, and so helps to support the Stage. He is not the Man I should recommend for a *Modern Practitioner*, he being so obstinately bent to the Old *Galenical* way; and as most People are apt to give into that Advice which their Necessities have made useful to them, he

he is continually prescribing Decoctions of *Gujacum* and the *Dry'd Woods*, and a Mastication of *Elecam-pain Root*, or *Mastich* for the Breath. He is now grown unfashionable and indolent, tho' it's necessary for me to keep a fair Hand with him, because his *Diploma* is of an Older Date than mine, and some of the weaker sort love to see him upon the Stage, tho' he is *impertinently busy*. He covets to follow the Stage, tho' he has no manner of Business there, but spread the *Carpet*, dispose the *Boxes*, and put the *Packets* in Order against I mount: Having been a Practitioner of some Note in former Days, he sometimes threatens to make a Figure in Velvet once more, and set up for himself, if I don't raise his Vails; but I am under very little Apprehension from him, the Method of Practice at this time being very different from his; but he having some smattering of *Poetry*, and a great Genius for *Motto's*, he heads my *Bills* with such curious Devices as the *Hand* and *Urinal*, *Apollo* transfixing the *Python* with an Arrow, and with apt Remnants of Poetry, such as—*Principiis obsta*; —*Post est Occasio calva*—

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#### IV. CODICIL.

**H**E is not only useful under the Doctor, but may serve in future Times as a Screen to him, being privileg'd with the Place of *Sealing the Packets*; of whom he says.

*Codicil* has the chief Management of the *Dispensary*; having formerly been pretty busy with Preparations of *Cinnabar*, his Opticks are extreamly weaken'd,



ken'd, tho' his Intellects remain good to this Day : Before he came to my Stage he was as indigent as my self, not thro' want of Ability, but he had a Faculty of Gaming away his Patients Fees, without coming to visit them after the first Prescription, which render'd him contemptible, but having a good keen Way of Talking, I took him into my Service to run down a popular Doctor who rival'd my Practice. He did it so effectually, that in Reward of his Services, I made him chief of the *Dispensary*, and gave him the Propriety of my *Electuarium Pacificum* with the Priviledge of putting his Seal to it ; the Credit of which, I solemnly declare, I no ways envy him : A Medicine so admirable in its kind, that I never yet heard any Man complain of it (except that it was a little over-dos'd with *French Tartar*) and so noble an *Opiate*, that it locks up all manner of Pains for the present, which must be a very comfortable Relief to such as have labour'd under *Cholick Pains* for Eight or Nine Years together, and whom even a Brother of ours in *Abchurch-Lane* could not remedy. He is well seen in Titles of Glasses and Boxes ; and whenever I bring in a Row of new Gally-Pots into the *Dispensary*, he Labels them all in Capital Letters. I purpose to leave him in Possession of all my Papers at my Death, (tho' I must do him the Honour to say He wants no Assistance from my Manuscripts) upon Condition he does not mount a Stage upon *Tower Hill*, or the Precincts of this populous City, without taking me in for Partnership, which some People, Enemies I believe to us both, would insinuate he is inclin'd to.



## V. S M U T.

**S**MUT (says the Doctor) is the Darling, he is the Wittiest Knave of my whole Family, and is all the Comfort I have in my Hours of Recess : I often take him out with me in my *Chaise* to *Breniford*, where he and I laugh together half a Day, at the Stupidity of some *Topping Doctors*, and their deluded Patients : That's the Time I take to give him the History of my Practice, and what Distempers are under Cure, which he faithfully communicates to the Publick in his Weekly Bills. There we rally the frequent Mistakes made by the Regular Practitioners of this Age, and the imprudent Measures they take to restore themselves to Credit when they lie under Popular Prejudices : When a Clamour is rais'd against them, they throw the Blame upon the *Apothecaries* and *Nurses*, and offer to expose every distinct Prescription to Vulgar Eyes. Alas, our Method is much greater ; First we tie our selves to no Rule, and therefore are at Liberty to prescribe as we please ; but if Patients think that too *Arbitrary*, *Smut* contends for the Goodness of the Medicines in general, and lays the Blame on the Vicious Humours of the Body, and ill Texture of the Blood. Others let their Patients know what they take ; we think it not only imprudent but dangerous to inform them, for Fear of disordering the Spirits ; and then no Physick can work amiss, and a *Vomit* passes for a *Purge*, and a *Purge* for a *Vomit*. In short *Smut* is the most respectful to me and his Superiors of the Stage, never Printing

a Bill but you shall find Dr. *Hermodactyl's* an *Æsculapius*, *Gambol* a *Parcelsus*. There are but Two Things in this Character which offend ; One reflects upon my Reputation, in taking him out of a Garret in dismal Weeds, by the Meditation of *Parnassus Banny* ; the Other upon my Conscience, in Retaining such an Infidel.

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## VI. A T T Y B R O G U E

**I**S very useful to me in his low Capacity, tho' I can scarce tell in what *Class* to place him : He is of the same Use to my Stage as a *Devil* in a Printing-House ; He cuts off many Impertinences in the Course of my Practice. When froward Patients come to the *Dispensary* Complaining of the Dearness of my *Foreign Drugs*, *Atty's* Speech is, *Good People, the French Druggist, whom I make use of, has the Best and most Palatable Drugs in the Universe ; and tho' you pay double the Price in Ready Specie, to what you pay for the same Drugs in another Shop ; tho' you could have them by way of Exchange of other Commodities, yet I aver them Cheaper and Better. — You are convinc'd, I hope. — The People, confounded at his Assurance, go off, but murmur by the Way, This Hermodactyl has a Set of Clever Fellows ; — what Mischiefs might they do if they were Rational ?*

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*The End of the First Part.*